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AN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR PUBLICATION

EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

THE ONLY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Owned, Controlled and Published by CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF ALAMEDA COUNTY and BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

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BUILDING TRADES MEET CHALLENGE OF RMA; MOVE TO BAN ASSOCIATION STORE WORK

PUBLISHERS' REPORT
—TO OUR READER-OWNERS

Newsprint Tight

Many East Bay unions have asked to have The Labor Journal delivered to their members, in addition to those unions already subscribing.

But the newsprint shortage prevents us from accepting these new subscriptions by unions. As soon as the newsprint shortage eases, we shall be right on the job soliciting subscriptions.

Production of newsprint paper in the U. S. and Canada has increased from 4,300,000 tons in 1945 to nearly 5,300,000 tons in 1946, of which 80 per cent is produced in Canada and the large part imported into the U. S.

But the circulation of daily newspapers increased, in 1946, 2,543,317, or 5.2 per cent, over 1945, to a record high of 50,927,505. This increase of dailies' circulation came despite the disappearance of sales-stimulating war news.

Moreover, representatives of the nation's 400 or more labor papers, which are weeklies or monthlies, point out that "the big daily publishers pressured the Government into killing the wartime allocation system at the end of 1945, and since then the big metropolitan dailies have boomed in circulation and in number of pages per issue, filling most of the new lineage with advertising."

These big publishers own their own mills or buy directly from mills, signing big contracts on long terms. Small papers are forced to buy from paper jobbers, who get less paper from monopoly-controlled mills and tend to keep cutting down on their smaller clients.

★ ★ ★

Six Pages Later?

So labor papers need to keep fighting for a fairer share of the newsprint paper. But it takes newsprint paper to make the fight. Thus it goes round in a dizzy circle.

However, it is hard to believe that the American people are going to stand for turning all the newsprint over to the bigger dailies so they can run more full-page ads showing a picture of Milady whiffing perfume named Oolala.

According, we're assuming that sooner or later, maybe later, we can make The Labor Journal a six-page rather than a four-page newspaper.

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Our Advertising

An accelerating tendency on The Labor Journal is to accept advertising from only those firms fully organized and fair to labor.

We're asking advertisers to publicize their union-label goods.

It is our Business Manager's hope that in the future when a reader of The Labor Journal is perusing our ads, he or she will know by the mere fact that the ad is in The Journal that the goods advertised are union-made and carry the union label.

You can help us achieve this by doing your bit to carry on the program of education necessary.

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News in a Weekly

In last week's issue we were caught smack on our Thursday morning deadline for late news with last minute flashes on the Supreme Court's John L. Lewis decision, the employers' concessions in the cleaning industry lockout, and an important development in the teamsters' picketing of canneries in Hayward.

Yes, news isn't handled just the same on a weekly as it is on a daily. A weekly is always likely to get caught out with a big change in the news right after it's gone to press.

But on the other hand a weekly devoted to the interests of a group, as The Labor Journal is, can give that group a specialized and highly valuable news service such as no general daily paper can or will give it.

A labor weekly, if it tries hard and devotes somebody's time to it, can assemble in convenient compass the vital news about labor not only locally but nationally and internationally, so that the reader can see at a flash everything that's significant in his field.

That's the kind of news service The Labor Journal with its recently expanded staff is trying to give. You may notice in this issue an increased number of short items. Shorter items get more news into that precious newsprint paper and give more service to readers.

And don't forget: most news events in order to get into The Labor Journal should be turned in to the Editor early on a Wednesday afternoon. But phone important later developments by 9 a.m. Thursdays.

Milk Strike Union Sticks To Demands

Striking Santa Clara County AFL milkwagon drivers and inside dairy workers voted 162 to 46 Tuesday night against accepting an arbitration plan proposed by Mayor Ruffo of San Jose.

The strikers showed determination to hold out for their full demands, speakers pointing out that they are simply asking for the scale already paid in San Francisco.

Pay in the county has been $255 a month for drivers, who are asking $300; and $235 for inside workers, who are asking $280. About three-fourths of the 300 strikers are drivers.

The strike was called Thursday, March 6, against one plant, that of the Golden State in San Jose. But 12 other plants belonging to the Santa Clara County Milk Dealers' Association were promptly shut down and the workers locked out.

PALO ALTO SIGNS

Four plants in Palo Alto, the Gold Seal, Peninsula, Toyon, and Piers signed up at the full rate demanded by the union before the strike was called, although these four plants belong to the dealers' association.

The arbitration proposal was that no award be made less than $275 a month for drivers, and in proportion for inside workers. The $275 figure was the latest offer of employers, who had originally talked about a raise of only $5 a month.

The original strike vote was on February 3 and stood 166 to 3 for the strike. Another was taken March 5 and stood at 209 to 10. Next day the strike was called.

MONTH'S WARNING GIVEN

George Jennott, business representative of Sales Delivery Drivers' Local 296, to which the strikers belong, told The Labor Journal by phone that "dealers and public knew for a full month between the two strike votes that the thing was heading that way, so plenty of warning was given."

Negotiations had been going on since December 27.

The union is seeing to it that hospitals and health services are supplied with milk.

Arrangements have been made by the union with a large San Francisco company to supply it with milk "if the union finds it necessary to go into the distribution business itself to break the lockout," as one union officer put it.

EAST BAY NEGOTIATIONS

The strikers are asking six days off a month, the system prevailing in San Francisco.

Milk Wagon Drivers' Local 302 of Oakland operates under a different system, working five days a week. Local 302 is now in negotiations for a new contract.

Women Pickets Fined $150 by Judge Kennedy

Police Judge Joseph A. Kennedy on Tuesday imposed fines of $150 apiece on two young women, pickets at Kahn's department store.

The two fined were: Mrs. Pat Link, 20, 453 Taylor Avenue, Alameda; and Miss Louise Sanchez, 19, 5712 San Jose Avenue, Richmond.

A jury had acquitted the young women of battery charges, but found them guilty of disturbing the peace.

In another case connected with the store strike, a jury in the court of Police Judge L. J. Hardie of Albany, sitting in Oakland, found Stanley Wesley, 21, 2921 Linden Street, not guilty of kicking a girl picket, Dolores Moore, 18, 3000 Seminary Avenue.

(Editor's Note: In a previous case growing out of the store strike, a man was fined $75. Police Judges Fox and Smith have imposed $50 fines in disturbing the peace cases. Where the union has had men arrested for striking girl pickets, and the men have pleaded guilty, they have been fined $50 for battery, a more serious charge than disturbing the peace. Apparently inflation has hit the fining mechanism in Judge Kennedy's court.)

California, Too, Losing Its Soil

Governor Warren has proclaimed California Conservation Week for March 7-14.

Trained scientific observers are on record that the Pacific Coast, and California particularly, constitute one of the few land areas in the world where there is any large body of good top soil left.

Even so, experts declare, soil erosion is the No. 1 agricultural problem in many parts of the State.

THREE OFFICE EMPLOYES' MEMBERS DECLARED 'RED' AND ORDERED EXPELLED

Three members of Office Employes' Local 29 have been found guilty of cooperating with the Communist Party and ordered expelled from membership by the executive board of the International Office Employes' Union.

The three were: Tom Bolster and Herbert Kalman, whose terms as Local 29's president and vice-president, respectively, expired Wednesday; and Muriel Kerchen, recently reelected as business agent.

John Kinnick, secretary-treasurer, said in a letter notifying all members of Local 29 of the decision that the international executive board in making the ruling said:

"The executive board hereby determines that it is entirely irrelevant whether defendants in fact were faithful and adequately serving Local 29 as business representatives and officers to the best of their ability; and that affiliation with a subversive organization, as described in Article IV (of the union's constitution) is in and of itself sufficient grounds for, and indeed requires, expulsion from the international union and any local thereof.

"This is for the reason that such affiliation with such subversive organization involves a division of loyalty, and that in any case where the paramount interests of Local 29 or the international union are opposed to the paramount interest of the Communist Party, the interest of the local union or the international would be subordinated.

"Where for any period the interests of the Communist Party coincide with the interests of the local, the individuals who are affiliated with the Party may serve the local exceedingly well, but it will be only for that period.

"The international cannot tolerate any such possibility of division of loyalty, and for that reason has adopted the provisions of Article IV."

"ALIENATION OF AFL"

The international executive board, which held hearings in Oakland on the case late in January, unanimously found the following against each of the three defendants:

"The defendant is either a member of or is closely associated with and/or lends support to the Communist Party.

"The defendant was a member or so associated at the time the defendant became a member of the international union and has continued such relationship up to the present time."

The board added:

"The relationship of the defendants to the Communist Party has caused the alienation of and a refusal to cooperate by a large segment of the AFL labor movement of Oakland and vicinity with respect to Local 29 and its affairs, which condition has brought the local union into disrepute and is contrary to the welfare and best interests of the international union."

"SERVES AS WARNING"

Kinnick told The Labor Journal that "the decision serves as a warning that the Office Employes' International Union wants no part of the Communists and their program."

Kinnick added that Article IV of the international constitution, referred to in the decision, states that no person is eligible for membership who "advocates principles or lends support to organizations or movements whose purposes and objectives are contrary to the fundamental principles of the established government of the United States."

When the decision was received, the local had already scheduled a meeting for Wednesday of this week to install the new officers, with Dan Flanagan, Western representative of the AFL, as installing officer.

NEW OFFICERS

The new president of Local 29 is Raymond R. Colliver, who defeated Kalman for that office. Margaret McGreevy is the new vice-president. Rita Brown is the new secretary-treasurer, succeeding Kinnick, who did not run for that office, but ran for business agent.

The office of business agent has been declared vacant, Muriel Kerchen having been reelected to it. A special election will be held March 26 to name a new business agent.

Charges were filed against the three by Frank Randall of Oakland, international vice-president, who had been asked by the executive board in September 1946 to investigate and report on their activities.

J. Howard Hicks, international secretary-treasurer, presided at the board's hearings in Oakland.

BOLSTER'S STATEMENT

Tom Bolster, asked by The Labor Journal for a statement, said:

"We won Round One when Muriel Kerchen won the office of business agent in the recent election. They won Round Two by this deplorable decision of the international executive Board.

"We are appealing to the international union's convention which meets soon in Chicago, and if necessary will appeal to the courts."

Officers of Long Standing Renamed By Laundry Workers

Walter East is entering his twelfth year as president of Laundry Workers' Local 2 as the result of the recent election of officers for four-year terms.

Harold Green was reelected vice-president, thus entering his sixth year in that office; Laura Fontanella, secretary-treasurer, twelfth year; and Eddie Maney, business representative, tenth year. Eddie Foy, inner guard since 1943, was also reelected.

J. J. Soares was named outside guard, and the following trustees: Josie Lujon, Eddie Foy, and Anna Bertel.

Those named to the executive board were: Laura Fontanella, Eddie Foy, Lee Haynes, Harold Green, Frank Spencer, C. C. Preston, and Marie Sinkey.

Delegates to Central Labor Council: Walter East, Laura Fontanella, Eddie Maney, and Lee Haynes.

HITS BIG PRESS



Small local daily and weekly papers are being squeezed out of business by the growing trend toward newspaper monopoly, Senator James E. Murray (D., Mont.) reported to the Senate Small Business Committe. See discussion of newsprint problem in Publishers' Report of this issue. (Federated Pictures.)

RED CROSS MANAGER'S PICKET-PASSING HIT

Sheet Metal Workers' Local 216 has protested "the actions of Mr. Thomas W. Russ, manager of the Oakland office of the Red Cross, who apparently has taken particular delight in crossing the picket lines at Kahn's department store."

Ted Witharm, recording secretary, has sent a copy of the protest to Basil O'Conor, Red Cross national director, and notice has been served that members of the local intend to make their Red Cross contributions to some chapter other than the Oakland one.

Cannery Bargaining to Get Vigorous March 19

Insistence that honest-to-glory negotiations between the AFL State Council of Cannery Unions and California Processors and Growers Inc. begin next Wednesday, March 19, was made by Hal Angus, secretary of the union group, at the last session of the opposing teams.

The employers' group agreed, and it is expected that negotiations will be practically continuous until the new contract is signed.

Pickets placed by Teamsters' Local 70 at the two Hunt Bros. plants in Hayward have been withdrawn, it being agreed that the work of loading and unloading is within the jurisdiction of the teamsters.

NEW LEADER!



Raymond Colliver, new president of Office Employes' Local 29, succeeding Tom Bolster, who is expelled for aiding Communists.

State Conference Machinists Elect

An NLRB election in which Local 68, International Association of Machinists, faced CIO United Steelworkers' Machinists for jurisdiction over some 2000 machinists in San Francisco uptown shops now in IAM, was in progress this week.

The IAM California Conference of Machinists met in Fresno recently with more than 100 delegates present.

Tony Ballerini, S. F. Local 1327, was elected president; S. O. Granger of San Diego, vice-president; G. P. Howes, Richmond Local 824, secretary-treasurer, succeeding Ernest E. Aronson of Local 1518 here; and trustees as follows: E. H. Vernon of Oakland Local 1546, John Burns of S. F. 1327, and Wm. Madigan of Local 1305.

FINE AGAINST UNIONS IN BAY REGION SET ASIDE BY TOP COURT

The U. S. Supreme Court on Monday ordered a new trial for a group of Bay Region lumber mills and AFL unions accused of fixing prices in violation of the Sherman Anti-trust law.

The Justice Department charged that companies and unions worked together to maintain prices for millwork and to prevent importation of such products from outside the State.

The Supreme Court in its 5-3 decision held that the individual defendants were "entitled to have their participation weighed by a jury under an instruction explaining" application of the Norris-Laguardia law.

The order set aside a Federal jury verdict of 1944 assessing $118,000 fines against the employers and $42,000 fines against the unions and their officials.

Defendants include the Lumber Products Association, Inc., the Boorman Lumber Company, the Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters, the International Brotherhood of Carpenters, Millmen's locals in San Francisco and Oakland, and various officers of both union and employer groups.

Cleaners Back at Work With Improved Contract

Cleaners and Dyers' Local 23 members, still locked out as a result of a wage controversy when The Labor Journal went to press last week, were back at work this week.

The 16½ cent an hour wage advance for all classifications, with retroactivity to February 17, announced in our last issue, was accepted at a meeting of the local Friday, March 7.

A. G. Alameida, business representative of the local, announced that other terms of the new contract include paying of overtime after 8 hours in any one day.

The work week will consist of five consecutive 8-hour days worked Monday through Friday or Tuesday through Saturday, inclusive, except for counter girls whose work week shall be Monday through Saturday.

Maxwell Quits Butchers' Post

Milton S. Maxwell, secretary of San Francisco Butchers' Local 115, has resigned as president of the AFL Western Federation of Butchers, it was announced Monday.

Maxwell continues as a vice-president of the union's international organization.

It was announced that Joseph Y. Henderson of Oakland, also an international vice-president, would be acting president of the Western Federation of Butchers until its next convention.

Labor Quiz Of Council Candidates

Candidates for the City Council and for the Board of Education in the April 15 election will be called before the Joint Political Committee of the Central Labor Council and the Building Trades Council for questioning as to their attitudes.

This was announced at the last meeting of the Central Labor Council by Secretary-treasurer Robert Ash.

Registration stands at 147,584, but at the 1945 city election only 26 per cent of the registered voters took the trouble to cast their ballots, so a strong drive to get out the vote will be made this year.

With filing of candidacies completed this week, it became plain that City Council incumbents will have to hustle out to meet opposition at the polls in the election April 15.

In District 1, Vernon Lantz and Richard L. Silvey filed as opposition candidates.

District 3: Carl Oscar Arnberg and Raymond E. Pease.

District 5: Harry L. Berger, Ben Goldfarb, Walter F. Jacobsen.

District 7: Edward A. Robey, Scott Weakley.

At-Large: Emile J. Basso, Darwin F. Hutchins, Joseph Edward Smith, William Bercovich.

For the Board of Education, School Director No. 2, Gordon L. Williams will race the incumbent.

School Director No. 3: Claude O. Allen.

School Director No. 4: Emma Stanley.

Printers Urge Pleas on Four Congress Bills

Jack Austin, secretary of Oakland Typographical Local 36, announces that legislative notices have been printed and are being sent out to the membership calling attention to four measures now before Congress.

The members are urged to write Senators Downey and Knowland and Representatives Miller and Allen urging them to take action on the bills, with attention called to the following analysis of their nature:

Taft-Ball-Smith Anti-labor Bill S. 55—"Modeled on old Case bill, this anti-labor omnibus bars the check-off, limits union rights of supervisory workers and enforces the 60-day cooloff. Write your senator to vote against it in any form. Write labor committee members to kill it in committee."

Ball Local-Bargaining Bill S. 133—"This measure will split up unions in bargaining, force them to deal with employers on purely local scale. Write all senators to vote against."

Knutson Tax Bill HR. 1—"Providing 20% cut in income taxes, this bill would give millions to the millionaires, pennies to the workers. Write representatives to vote for a tax bill putting the burden on high incomes."

Anti-Polltax HR. 7—"Once more the issue of cleaning out anti-labor polltaxers from Congress depends on passing this measure. Write all representatives to pass it quickly so Senate can tackle it before a southern filibuster develops late in the session."

Pressmen Meeting At 1918 Grove St.

C. A. Moreno, recording and corresponding secretary, Oakland Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Local 125 calls attention to the fact that the Monday, March 17 regular meeting of the local will be in Porter Hall, second floor, Alco Elec. building, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland.

Workman Cannot Receive Accident and Disability

All Building Trades Council members are being reminded by Joseph Smith, attorney:

"Workmen are NOT entitled to both Workmen's Compensation Insurance and Disability Insurance at the same time. A workmen is under one act or the other, but not both."

5 Steamfitters Made Delegates

Steamfitters' Local 342 has elected the following delegates to the California Pipe Trades Council which meets at Fresno March 22-24: J. E. O'Donnell, C. D. Gibbon, John Davey, John Ervin, and James Martin.

$3,500,000 Construction Plans Of Open Shop Chiefs Affected

The Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County went on record Tuesday night that its members will perform no construction, alteration, or repair work for any member of the Retail Merchants' Association until the Kahn's and Hastings strike is settled.

It was estimated that this action will put a stop to a contemplated downtown building program of about $3,500,000 magnitude.

The two biggest jobs which had been scheduled to start in the near future were on the Penney store at 1106 Washington Street, and on the rebuilding of the old Elks' building near Nineteenth and Broadway for the Jackson Furniture Company.

Five or six other stores had been preparing for building programs.

REYNOLDS' STATEMENT

J. C. Reynolds, secretary-treasurer of the Building Trades Council, said:

"While this action grows out of the store strike, the Building Trades Council has its own specific dispute with the Retail Merchants' Association.

"When the store strike was called at Kahn's, and building trades workers observed the picket line, professional strikebreakers were brought in to finish the escalator job at Kahn's.

"Mr. J. Paul St. Sure as counsel for the RMA has made it plain repeatedly that all members of the association consider the strike at Kahn's just as much their business as though it were directed against them.

"Accordingly, it is our policy to take Mr. St. Sure at his word, and to stop all building activities for all RMA members."

CENTRAL COUNCIL SUPPORTS

Robert Ash, secretary-treasurer of the Central Labor Council, said that at the meeting of all business agents and paid officers of affiliated unions held Tuesday morning it was determined to support any action the building trades might take.

"We also," said Ash, "took further steps to press the boycott against all RMA members.

"Since all RMA members urge the public to cross the picket lines at the struck stores, organized labor in Alameda County will continue to spread the boycott against all RMA stores."

Labor Organizes Joint Group To Face Anti-Labor

Representatives of central labor councils and independent unions in Alameda County have formed a committee to combat proposed legislation against unions, according to announcement by Frank E. Swan, chairman of the organizational committee.

Members of the executive board of the newly-formed organization, in addition to Swan, who represents the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks' State Legislative Committee, are E. H. Vernon, Auto Machinists Union Local 1546, International Association of Machinists; Jeffrey Cohelan, Milk Wagon Drivers' Local 302 (AFL); Vane Dart, Carpenters' Union Local 36 (AFL); Robert Ash, secretary of the AFL Central Labor Council; Frank J. Rizzo and J. C. Reynolds, of the AFL Building Trades Council; and Paul Schlipf and Ole Fagerhaugh of the Alameda CIO Council.

MASS MEETING APRIL 3

First action of the committee will be to sponsor a mass meeting in the Oakland Municipal Auditorium arena on Thursday evening, April 3, at which prominent local and national speakers will report on pending anti-labor laws. A program of action to forestall passage of such legislation will be outlined. The mass meeting was originally proposed by Carpenters' Union Local 36.

"Our committee is primarily concerned with laws which would wipe out all of labor's present rights," Swan said, "but we may also participate in the coming Oakland Municipal elections because local government has been—and will continue to be—involved in Labor disputes. An example is the recent use of police in support of the Retail Merchants Association in the Kahn's-Hastings strike which precipitated the work holiday."

5 TESTS OF CANDIDATES

Swan listed five points upon which the Joint Labor Committee will evaluate councilmanic candidates: Strict impartiality by city officials in labor disputes, with particular emphasis against use of the police force to break legal picket lines; a fair tax program, based upon reassessment of real property and repeal of the city sales tax; adequate housing, especially for veterans and others in the low-income brackets; improved transportation to outlying shopping districts and a readjustment of present franchise payments for operation of Key System trains, streetcars and buses; a number of city charter amendments, including election of councilmen by districts.

A highlight of the mass meeting on April 3, Swan announced, will be a master petition protesting proposed anti-labor laws, which members of organized labor in Alameda County will sign.

FEDERATION HEADS WILL MEET IN S. F.

SAN FRANCISCO. — The next quarterly meeting of the Executive Council of the California State Federation of Labor will be held in San Francisco, on April 11 and 12, at the Whitcomb Hotel. This meeting will concern itself primarily with legislation. The Federation has analyzed 1500 bills of interest to labor, which are now being printed in pamphlet form. Copies will be sent to all the affiliates of the Federation.

Preparations for the annual convention of the Federation will also be completed at this meeting, together with all other urgent matters to which the Council will give attention at this meeting.

Shipyard Unions In Negotiations

Negotiations started Monday at Santa Cruz between the AFL Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council and management representatives of the shipbuilding industry.

Several East Bay labor men were in attendance.

Principal demand is a 25-cent hourly across-the-board wage increase.

Shipwrights Name V. Jonke Secretary

Vic Jonke has been elected recording secretary of Shipwrights' Local 1149, succeeding Melvin Wolburn, resigned.

Jonke won over Larry Mallen and Jack Drew.

Anti-Labor Bill Hearing March 27

SAN FRANCISCO.—On March 27, at 9 a.m. the Senate Committee on Labor will consider SB 342, a bill which would not only make the "Hot Cargo" and Secondary Boycott Law permanent but also would outlaw the closed shop.

Labor Journal Editor's Phone

A new telephone has been installed for the Editor of The East Bay Labor Journal.

It is TEmplebar 2821.

Please telephone your items in to that number.

3 Bartender Officers 'Guilty' Board Finds; Absolved by Meeting

President Vic Lester, Secretary Walter Reardon, and Business Agent John Quinn of Bartenders' Local 52 were found guilty by a trial board Wednesday of violating rules of the union.

The trial board recommended that Lester be fined $75 and reprimanded, that Reardon be removed from office, and that Quinn be fined $100 and reprimanded.

A membership meeting rejected the trial board's findings, and absolved the accused officers. Assistant Secretary Steve Revilak announced that he will appeal the case. The contention was advanced that only 175 of the local's 1500 members were present.

Members of the trial board were: Wilson Wallier, Al Wolberg, J. S. Mason, Ralph Strathearn, and Bob Dowdle.

SEAFARERS REOPENING FOR INCREASED COSTS

NEW YORK.—The Seafarers International Union (AFL) is reopening its contracts with 31 ship operators to seek pay increases to meet rising living costs, SIU port agent Paul Hall announced here. "We cannot allow ourselves to go back to the substandard living that seamen had to endure for so long," he said in making the announcement.

Labor Hits Back At Slur It Causes Housing Shortage

Denial that housing scarcity was caused by failure of AFL building material and construction workers to do an efficient job was made before the Joint Legislative Committee on Housing Problems by Robert W. Gilbert, labor attorney.

The charge against building trades workers had been made by Kenneth Winebrenner, spokesman for the construction industries committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

At the hearing in Los Angeles by the Legislative Committee on Housing Gilbert appeared at representative of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council.

Gilbert testified that "those who hope to destroy rent control completely and divert materials and manpower from much-needed housing to more profitable types of construction are behind these irresponsible anti-labor statements."

The union lawyer said Winebrenner's claim that labor takes 40% more time to do a housing job than in 1939 and gets twice as much pay is "unfounded" and was made "without a scrap of supporting evidence."

W. J. Bassett, secretary of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council indicated he will file a "complete written brief" rebutting the Chamber "accusations" against Southern California workers, and offering positive recommendations for increasing the supply of low-rental and low-cost housing.

Call Says Harry Hook Asking For Federal Job

Dave Jones of S. F. Call-Bulletin runs this story:

"Harry Hook, the stormy petrel of San Francisco labor, who led an insurgent group out of the International Association of Machinists here last year, has taken steps to quit his socalled 'rebel' union, it was disclosed.

"The labor figure has applied for a federal civil service job as a Government 'labor relations consultant,' the Call-Bulletin has learned.

"To take such a post he would have to leave his present job as business agent of CIO Machinists Local 168.

"Hook is said to receive 'about $100' a week as union business agent. The federal classification he asks for pays $6000 to $7200 a year.

"Hook declined to go into his reasons for the job application in detail beyond saying: 'There is no disgrace in applying for work in the U. S. Government. Our union is proud of the fact that scores of our officials have served our Government.'"

VET TRAINEES IN BARGAINING UNIT

SAN FRANCISCO.—Trainees working under the veterans' "on-the-job training program" may properly be included in a bargaining unit of production and maintenance employees, according to a ruling of the National Labor Relations Board in discussing an election at the Westbrook Manufacturing Company, Jackson, Mississippi. The Board finds that the trainees perform the same production work, conform to the same working and conduct rules, and are paid on the same basis as other workers in the unit, and have "reasonable expectation" of ultimately becoming employees.

Bakers' Union Wins In Eureka

Operators of Eureka's two largest bakeries, closed several days by a strike of the AFL Bakers' Union, have reached agreement for a 12½ cent hourly wage increase.

The increase also applies to the town's six hand bakeries, which were not closed by the strike.

Labor Conciliator George Walker sat in on the negotiations.

RAIL STRIKE ISSUE TO REOPEN SOON

CLEVELAND. — The work rules program which two railroad brotherhoods were forced to postpone for one year after President Truman broke their strike last May will be renewed this spring by all five operating unions on a united basis.

SOME APPEALS WON IN MACHINISTS' STRIKE JOBLESS PAY CASES

SAN FRANCISCO. — Decisions are being received covering the final cases in which appeals have been taken from original determinations of the Department of Employment denying all workers at all establishments unemployment insurance during the period November 1945 through March 1946, on the ground that they had all left their work voluntarily because of a labor dispute in machine shops.

The California State Federation of Labor, through its legal counsel, took an active part in these appeals from the very beginning and did everything possible to win benefits for the workers involved.

The results of the various appeals indicate that the employees of the following establishments have received determinations reversing the original determinations denying benefits and have been held eligible to receive benefits: Bethlehem, Alameda; General engineering, Alameda; General Engineering, San Francisco; Hurley Marine; Pacific Coast Engineering; United Engineering; and Western Pipe and Steel.

The original determinations denying benefits have been affirmed in the Bethlehem, San Francisco, Matson and Moore cases.

Stay With State On Disability Clause, Labor Man Advises

Labor unions had better "stay with the State instead of risking it with private insurance companies" in going after the benefits of disability insurance.

John P. Peregoy, secretary, Construction and General Laborers' Local 304, expressed that opinion after serving as subchairman of the committee on unemployment insurance benefits and disability insurance at the recent State Building Trades Council convention in San Francisco.

"I'm expressing this simply as my own personal opinion," Peregoy emphasized, "and not acting as an official spokesman."

Peregoy called attention to the fact that the State Federation of Labor has urged that if unions do decide to take out disability insurance with private concerns, they should first check with Charles P. Scully, Federation attorney in the Flood Building, San Francisco.

Scully has analyzed all the private disability insurance plans, and has found jokers in some of them, he has reported to labor bodies.

The disability insurance law was adopted through the urgent insistence of John F. Shelley last year as State Senator.

ONLY 2000 BILLS IN LEGISLATURE AFFECT LABOR!

Of 4190 bills now before the Legislature, fully 2000 affect labor's interests in one way or another, State Federation headquarters informally notifies Central Labor Council.

Federation staff workers have been burning the midnight oil looking for the jokers.

Besides the regular bills, the Senate has proposed 18 constitutional amendments and 34 resolutions; and the Assembly 36 amendments and 75 resolutions.

PALO ALTO CAFES SIGN WITH LOCAL 180

Cooks, Waiters, and Waitresses' Local 180 of Santa Clara County is keeping up its drive on organizing Palo Alto restaurants.

Up to a recent date, five Palo Alto restaurants and a dairy had signed contracts with the union since the county's Central Labor Council threw its weight back of the organizing drive in January.

350,000 JOBLESS IN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO. — A report from the California Departments of Industrial Relations and Employment shows that for December, 1946, unemployment increased from 35,000 to an estimated 350,000. This increase in unemployment is due primarily to seasonal layoffs in agriculture, food processing and lumbering. Veterans made up a large portion of the unemployed and some 80,000 World War II veterans filed claims during the week ending December 19th, an increase of 10,000.

Dressing Room CHATTER

The next regular meeting will be held Saturday, March 22nd, at 10 a.m., upstairs from the business office. Remember to have your paid-up membership card or receipt to show the sergeant-at-arms.

Your attention is called to the current Red Cross Campaign. As in the past six years, this donation, if any, will be made by the individual and not through the union office. The membership took a very definite stand at a recent meeting regarding such campaigns. Although endorsing all recognized worthy charities, the union believes the amount of the donation should be dictated by the individual's circumstances and not by any other means.

We specifically refer to a previous campaign where theatre managers arbitrarily set a figure for the individual to pledge, disregarding all factors other than meeting his house quota. We do not expect this to happen again, but if it does, call your business office and explain the facts.

In compliance with a request made by Mr. D. J. Bolton, Division Manager of Golden State Theatres, we are asking the employees in these houses to support this campaign to the best of their ability. We do not mean as dictated by your manager. Let your conscience be your guide.

The recent membership drive has been quite successful, but there are still a few delinquents and a few who have not made application for membership. It has been necessary to remove more than a few people from the job in the last few weeks for non-payment of dues or failure to get a clearance card for the job.

This campaign was only carried on in certain sections of the jurisdiction. It will be extended to all houses under our jurisdiction in the immediate future.

Remember, if your fellow employee is not a member, you are supporting him in the matter of evading the financial obligations incumbent upon this organization. If he doesn't join, your dues could go up.

Up and down the aisle . . . Bennie Cullen passing out cigars, on the occasion of the birth of a daughter, February 26th. . . . Elinor Holmes, complaining that she never gets her name in the paper. . . . Now that she is back from Boyes Springs we hope she is happy. . . . Is it true that Bob Bartelson, man about Berkeley and especially the Campus Theatre will wed Alma Scofield, former U. C. usherette on April 26th? . . . Famous last words, "Oh, I could have been in sooner, but I didn't really think you would pull me off the job." . . . Ralph McCain now working at the Telenews. . . . Eddie Chew is looking for a five room house. . . . Local B-18 advises us via their monthly mimeographed bulletin that Mgr. Blanchard of the Portola, became father to an 8-lb., 5-oz. boy February 17th." Some of the members may remember "Bonfire" Blanchard, when he was at the Esquire here. Whether or not this has anything to do with the previous quotes we do not presume to say, but the next sentence says: "Great spot the Portola, home of the 'Outlaw.'" . . . I leave it to you to figure out. . . .

OFFICE WORKERS WIN COTTON 'CHARGE BEEF

NEW YORK.—A history-making 1-day strike at the New York Cotton Exchange March 4 brought a quick victory to 103 AFL workers who shut the trading post down tight.

The exchange, largest in the world, was forced to close at 9 a.m. when the surprise walkout was called. It was the first time any major exchange had been forced to suspend business because of a labor dispute.

Settlement was announced at close to midnight by Chairman Arthur S. Meyer of the State Mediation Board after a 6-hour session with exchange representatives and leaders of the United Financial Employes, Office Workers International Union.

The new contract, Meyer said, would include a maintenance of membership clause which would eliminate the previous 15-day escape period, dues checkoff, a 40-hour 5-day week, wage increases of 14% for maintenance workers and 20% for clerical workers and a bonus based on the number of cotton bales sold each day.

AFL CAN DO WHAT CMU COULDN'T: LUNDEBERG

S. F. Chronicle ran a story wired from Chicago by Abe Mellinkoff, the paper's assistant city editor, quoting Harry Lundeberg, AFL sailors' leader, on plans for building a powerful combine of AFL maritime workers.

Lundeberg, referring to the first general meeting of the AFL Maritime Trades Department to be held in Chicago March 31, told Mellinkoff:

"This will be strictly an AFL affair.

"This organization will work. It will do what the CMU (Committee for Maritime Unity) couldn't do.

"This is the logical setup for the maritime industry because it represents a majority in the industry. That's something the CMU never did."

MAN HURT GOING TO WORK GETS HELP IN CERTAIN CASES

A man is not usually held to be within the protection of the Workmen's Compensation Act while going to or from work, but under some circumstances he is entitled to such protection.

Joseph E. Smith, attorney, points this out in a statement issued by Workmen's Compensation Council for the Building Trades Council, 915 Financial Center Building, Oakland.

Smith says that "the Industrial Accident Commission recently held that where the employer sent a truck around to pick up an employe and the employe was struck while crossing the street to get to the truck that the injury arose out of and in the course of employment."

"This case," adds the attorney, "points out the importance of union officials keeping a close check on all possible industrial injuries, and making inquiries as to the possibility of certain cases coming within the purview of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

"All injuries incurred while employes are going to and from work, or on their lunch hour, should be thoroughly checked."

Sorrell Recovering From Beating by 3

Herbert K. Sorrell, president of the Conference of Studio Unions in Hollywood, is recuperating from injuries suffered March 3 when he was beaten by three men, taken a hundred miles into the desert, and dumped unconscious by the roadside.

Sorrell is now on trial, with 13 other unionists, on criminal conspiracy charges arising from alleged failure to obey anti-picketing injunctions.

Californians Fired In Hawaii Dispute

SAN FRANCISCO. — In a radiogram from A. S. Reile, Secretary of the Honolulu Building Trades Council, the Federation has been informed that a labor dispute exists between local building trades and the Pollock Stockton Shipbuilding Company in Honolulu over the firing of several workers from California.

DEMAND THE UNION LABEL

Plumbers and Gas Fitters' Notes

By S. J. DONOHUE

As the members of the Local Union have been previously advised regarding the action of the United Association taken at the Convention in Atlantic City September, 1946 that on and after April 1st the furnishing of tools by all members of the United Association will be eliminated. It is in order for the members to remind their employers of that resolution. I have also notified the employers by mail, and some of them have already made suggestions as to how they could obtain and furnish tools to their employes as required.

The next regular meeting of the Local Union will be held on the 26th instant at which meeting questions of importance will be discussed and every member who possibly can is urgently requested to be in attendance.

AFL Farm Union Head Organizing Around Fresno

H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union, who was recently a visitor at the Oakland Labor Temple, has been holding organizing discussions around Fresno.

The Fresno Labor Citizen, AFL newspaper, reports that Robert Franklin, public relations counsel for the Associated Farmers, "said the organization is willing to discuss the unionization of farm workers with any AFL union which will forego using its strike weapon at peak harvest time, and promised his group would, in such a case, bargain in good faith before the critical period."

The AFL State Council of Winery and Distillery Workers, said to represent about 4000 workers, meeting recently in Los Angeles, pledged full support to the National Farm Labor Union, which only recently affiliated with the AFL.

STATE ANNOUNCES NEW INJURY FORM

SAN FRANCISCO.—A new official form for reporting industrial injuries in California, as required by law, has just been announced by Paul Scharrenberg, Director of Industrial Relations. According to Mr. Scharrenberg, "the revision of the injury report form is part of an intensive campaign by the Department of Industrial Relations to reduce the toll of industrial casualties in the state."

Laundry Drivers to Meet Tues., March 18

William P. Gibbons, recording secretary, Laundry Drivers' Local 209, announces that the next regular meeting of the local will be Tuesday evening, March 18, at St. George Hall, 25th and Grove streets. Nominations will be in order for financial secretary and delegates to the Central Labor Council.

UNITED EMPLOYERS TELL ABOUT WORK THAT THEY'VE DONE

United Employers Inc., 1440 Broadway, announces that it "now has more than 650 employer members of all classifications in industry, service, and business in Alameda and Contra Costa counties."

"The staff consists of a manager and eight men and seven women," the announceemnt continues, "and will be further increased when new quarters are occupied.

"Recently a public relations service has been added. Its principal efforts will be directed to aiding individual employers and the group to a better understanding of their individual and group responsibility to other employers, the mass of employes in the area and to the general public."

During 1946 the United Employers' staff "negotiated agreements for a total of 695 employers, dealt with representatives of all local unions in the East Bay area, and concluded more than 111 written agreements."

Ford M. Tussing, vice-president of the Paraffine Companies, is president of United Employers; the vice-presidents are George Raitt of Steel Pipe & Tank Co., and Fred Cutter of Cutter Laboratories. R. C. Thumann is manager, and J. Paul St. Sure is counsel.

STANFORD PROFESSORS GET SALARY INCREASE

Substantial salary raises will be granted many Stanford University faculty members effective September 1, President Donald B. Tresidder has announced.

On that date, the minimum salary rates for assistant professors will be raised to $3,500 a year, an increase of 16.6 per cent over the 1946 figure and 40 per cent more than the salary received in this category in 1945.

Instructors who have completed their graduate work will be increased to a minimum of $3,000 a year, a 20 per cent raise over last year's instructors' salaries, and 66 per cent more than the 1945 schedule at this level.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS FIGHT HIGHER RATES

PORTLAND, Ore.—In a move to prevent higher light bills for consumers, Local 48, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL), is opposing efforts to increase Bonneville wholesale power rates. Higher light bills would result ,since the Portland General Electric Co. is the largest distributor of Bonneville power.

IBEW WINS WAGE HIKE IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST

SPOKANE, Wash. — Wage increases of from 20c to 35c an hour have been agreed upon by the National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL) in Washington, Oregon and northern Idaho. Approximately 400 workers in the northwest are affected.

Bosses Might Read Wagner Act: Lewis

WASHINGTON.—When the Senate Labor Committee asked President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers (AFL) if he'd object to any change in the Wagner act, he replied: "That's right. If it strengthened the hand of the employers or of the state I'd be against it."

Senator Irving Ives (R., N.Y.) inquired about the "free speech for employers" amendment and Lewis replied employers had free speech as did everyone else, and "it's given them in Section 8 of the act."

Ives protested that many employers were unaware of their rights and asked if Lewis would object to a definite stipulation.

"Oh," Lewis smiled, "I'd see nothing wrong in writing in the act that 'employers who think they are deprived of the right of free speech should read Section 8.'"

That set the big crowd and the committee laughing.

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Shell, S. P., Given Huge Tax Refunds

WASHINGTON.—While the average Joe in the factory or shop wonders whether his union is going to win him a couple of extra bucks in the weekly pay check, America's industrial giants are busy posting U. S. Treasury refund checks on the credit side of their ledgers.

Income tax refunds, due under the law passed despite the late President Roosevelt's veto as "aiding the greedy at the expense of the needy," poured well over $3 billion into the tills of corporations and wealthy individuals.

Top dog among the recipients was the Aluminum Corporation of America which received a refund of $47,168,578 under the carry back provision of the law passed by a coalition of polltax Democrats and the Republicans.

Shell Oil got a check for $9,359,394, while Philadelphia's Cramp Shipbuilding Corporation deposited $9,775,762; the Pennsylvania Railroad $12,229,260 and the Southern Pacific a neat $18,393,461.

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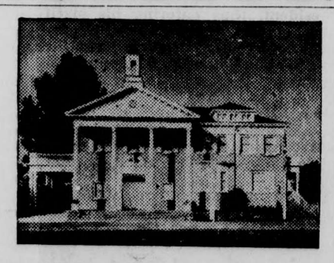
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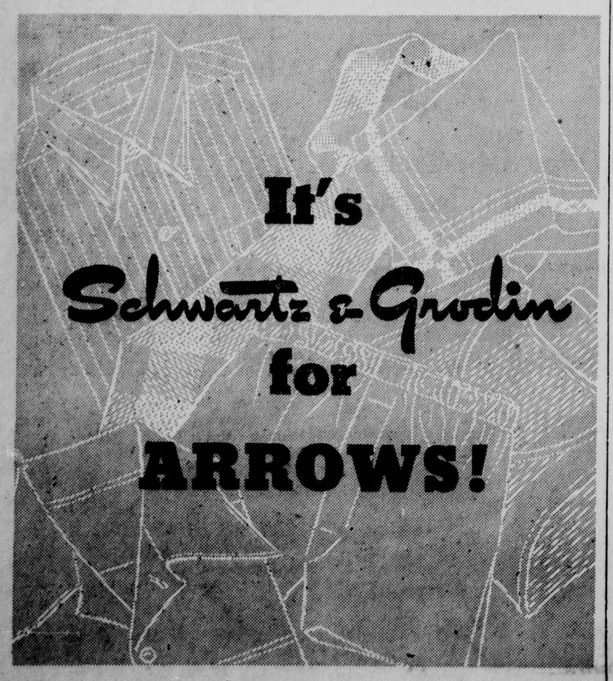
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AFL Headquarters Sums Up Meaning Of Lewis Decision

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The majority opinion of the United States Supreme Court was that the Government can fight strikes with court orders although the Norris-LaGuardia Act says that the Federal courts shall not issue injunctions or restraining orders in labor disputes, declared AFL headquarters here. The court found that this act does not apply when the Government, acting in its sovereign capacity, seeks an injunction.

Chief Justice Vinson and Justices Black, Reed, Douglas and Burton made this ruling.

There could not have been an injunction in the coal case, Vinson said, if the dispute had been between the miners and private employers. But the Chief Justice found that Congress never intended the acts to apply to the Government.

Although Vinson reported in the opinion that the majority of the court felt that the $10,000 fine imposed upon Lewis was warranted, he declared a majority of the court did not so regard "the unconditional imposition of a fine of $3,500,000 against the union."

Declaring that a majority of the court felt that a lesser fine should be assessed against the union, he added:

"Accordingly, the judgment against the defendant union is held to be excessive. It will be modified so as to require the union to pay a fine of $700,000 and further to pay an additional fine of $2,800,000 unless the defendant union, within five days after the issuance of the mandate herein, shows that it has fully complied with the temporary restraining order issued November 18, 1946, and the preliminary injunction issued December 4, 1946.

TABLE TALK: LEWIS AND GREEN



This picture of the miners' chief and the AFL head was taken at Miami during sessions of the AFL Executive Council, but you can be sure there'll be more table talk of top leaders since that Supreme Court decision. (Federated Pictures)

TENN. BANS CLOSED SHOP

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — With the legislature riding roughshod over the sentiments of the population, dramatically expressed last week when thousands of workers marched on the capitol to protest restrictive legislation, Tennessee recently became the fifth state to outlaw the closed shop.

The closed shop ban was approved by the House by 64 to 25. A day earlier the Senate gave its okeh in a 26 to 7 vote. The measure has still to go before the governor but it is almost certain to receive his approval since the Democratic leaders in both Houses were behind it.

The bill makes it illegal to compel an employer to hire union workers. Violations are punishable by fines up to $500 or jail sentences of 11 months and 29 days, or both.

The bill, introduced by rural legislators who termed unions "monopolies" under the leadership of "irresponsible" and radical" people, was described by local AFL officials as "the most serious threat to unionism in Tennessee labor history." The recent demonstration against the measure was sponsored jointly by AFL, CIO and independent unions.

Other states which already have closed shop bans are Virginia, Florida, Arkansas and Arizona.

Ex WLB Member Opposes Ban On Industry-Wide Bargaining

WASHINGTON. — Congress was warned by a former industry member of the National War Labor Board recently that "turmoil may follow" if it outlaws industry-wide bargaining for labor and management.

The statement came from Vincent P. Ahearn, now executive secretary of the National Sand & Gravel Association who told the Senate Labor Committee that a "policy of caution" ought to be adopted in labor matters.

LEFT WING LEADERSHIP OF N. Y. CIO STUDIED

NEW YORK.—Criticizing the Greater New York CIO Council as left-wing dominated, more than 200 CIO members met here March 6 to seek reorganization of the body.

Price Drop To Stop Recession Urged

WASHINGTON.—The Bureau of Agricultural Economics says forces now at work seem to indicate a business recession late in 1947 and a downturn in prices, particularly in foods.

It said wholesale food prices—which in recent weeks climbed to a record level—may decline from 15 to 20 per cent by the end of the year. Farm prices could drop 20 to 25 per cent, it added, if the business downturn should come at the time when farm marketings are heavy.

The bureau emphasized, however, that "timely downward adjustments" in prices could improve the outlook.

Women Must Work, Bureau Reports

WASHINGTON. — The fact that more women are actively in the labor market today than before the war is due not only to the war itself but to long-term economic factors, the annual report of the Labor Department women's bureau says.

Reviewing the fiscal year 1946, the report said this increase (to 17.5 million) "socially and economically is a force no government in its planning can afford to ignore or neglect." Among widows of war casualties, it said, many must work to support themselves and their famiiles because pensions are insufficient.

URGES PROBE OF RISING LIVING COSTS

WASHINGTON. — Congress should investigate the causes of the "unending raid on the public" represented by the tremendous increase in the cost of living in the last six months, Rep. Adolph J. Sabath (D., Ill.) has told the House. He offered a resolution to empower the House agriculture committee to do just that, and report back within 60 days.

Sabath's resolution asked that special reference be made to such foods as meat, dairy products, fruit and vegetables, the greatest factor in the current high cost of living.

Business Can Pay Wages Prosperity Requires, AFL Says

WASHINGTON.—The key question in 1947 is whether employers will give their workers the wage increases to which they are justly entitled, and which are necessary to prevent an economic collapse, without hiking prices.

That is the gist of an analysis of the present wage-profit relationship in the February issue of Labor's Monthly Survey, official AFL economic bulletin.

"Will employers make it necessary for workers to strike in order to obtain fair wage gains?" the survey asks. Whether the AFL can continue its peaceful negotiation policy "will depend on the willingness of employers to bargain in good faith, give the facts at the bargaining table and agree to the substantial wage increases called for by the current situation."

Asserting that "the present lag in workers' buying power is one of the most serious factors in the current business situation," the bulletin shows workers' total income between 1945 and 1946 declined by $5.5 billion while the income of businessmen, corporations, farmers and coupon-clippers rose by $8.6 billion.

The result, it says, is a decline in living standards for the workers, and a drop in the market for industry's products. Consumer credit buying has increased 45% since last year and savings have dropped 41%, signs our industrial structure is being built "on a hollow foundation which will collapse.

"An enduring foundation can only be built out of increased consumer income, and about 75 to 80% or American consumers are workers and their families."

The solution, the survey says, is to be found in:

1. Wage increases without price increases, with a 10c hourly wage raise suggested.
2. Tax reductions for low income groups, "the money thus released will be spent almost 100% to buy goods and services."
3. Price reductions.

The bulletin warns that "rents will probably go up some time before the fall of 1947. However, if Congress should destroy rent controls, rent increases might be enough to cause a 4-point rise in living costs. This would bring widespread labor unrest with very serious economic repercussions."

WAIT FOR RULING ON ANTI-CLOSED SHOP

CHICAGO.—Unionists have been advised by AFL President William Green March 6 to ignore state legislation against the closed shop until it has been ruled upon by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Promising that the AFL would challenge the validity of the laws, Green told the 16th convention of the Brotherhood of Paper Makers: "The Supreme Court already has upheld the closed shop and will again so decide."

NEW ORLEANS TEACHERS ORGANIZE IN AFL WITH BOARD CRYING 'DON'T!'

NEW ORLEANS, La.—A record number of New Orleans teachers turned out for an AFL organizing meeting despite warnings by the school board that their attending the rally "would be a mistake."

Conditions which had brought the school teachers to their fighting mood were put in a nutshell by Helen Alexander, spokesman for the teachers.

"The classroom is crowded," the pretty teacher told the meeting. "The day is crowded, too, with never a minute off. There is no time to prepare for the next day's work. When you're not teaching, you have yard duty, or bus duty, or the Junior Red Cross. So you do your next day's work at home but you don't get paid for overtime. And you don't get enough money to have any domestic help, so your house work gets done at midnight. The next day it starts all over again, until you're a nervous and physical wreck."

Haskett Derby, organizer of the New Orleans Classroom Teachers Federation (AFL), told the teachers that their wages had actually been cut more than 50% since 1939. In 1939, he said, the top salary for the best qualified teachers here was $2,200. Meanwhile, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, living costs have risen to where it now takes $1.62 to buy what a dollar could get in 1939.

"On this basis," Derby pointed out, "the wage should be $3,894. But it's only $2,812. That's where the cut comes in."

AFL General Organizer Pat Ryan, President Robert Soule of the New Orleans Central Trades & Labor Council and speakers for other labor and civic groups pledged the teachers unqualified support in their organizing drive.

NLRB CHIEF WILLING TO SEE TWO CHANGES IN WAGNER ACT

WASHINGTON.—General approval was given two changes in the Wagner act March 6 by Chairman Paul M. Herzog of the NLRB in testimony before the Senate Labor Committee.

Herzog indicated support of amendments to make strikes by a minority union an unfair labor practice after an NLRB election had given bargaining rights to a majority group.

He also indorsed a change to permit workers to support switching from one union to another just before a contract is to expire without loss of their jobs under a closed shop clause.

F. D. R. BUST UNVEILED

HYDE PARK, N. Y.—The International Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL) in a simple ceremony here January 30th, unveiled a granite bust of Franklin D. Roosevelt at the entrance to the Roosevelt Memorial Library on the occasion of the late President's 65th birthday.

AFL Head Hits Republican 'Judas Tactics' In Idaho

BOISE, Ida.—The Republican legislature was accused of Judas tactics in its campaign promises to labor by a top AFL leader here, Fred McCabe of the Boise Building Trades Council.

He scored the state assembly after GOP senators introduced measures to control collective bargaining, picketing, strikes and other union activity in Idaho. The senators proposed to give the labor commissioner power to outlaw the closed shop, limit picketing and require written notice of strike action 30 days in advance. Although the post of labor commissioner has been vacant many years, the Republicans had pledged to reactivate the office.

McCabe declared the reactivation now would "create a policeman to suppress labor." "If that type of legislation is the Republican answer to their campaign promise to appoint a labor commissioner, we feel it was a Judas promise and they can withdraw their platform pledge to labor," he said.

The AFL leader also rapped open shop legislation in the house, stating: "We feel that this legislation is meant solely for the purpose of tearing down the gains made by organized labor in past years, with a desire to place labor on the market at competitive prices whereby capital and industry could secure working people at their own prices and conditions."

RUGGED TEAMSTERS TREK TO ALASKA ON ALCAN ROAD

FAIRBANKS, Alaska.—A troop of 11 rugged teamsters who for over three weeks bucked snow drifts in sub-freezing weather have arrived here after hauling 18 pieces of heavy construction equipment from Seattle over the 1,600-mile Alcan highway.

The crew, members of Seattle Local 174, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL), were part of a "test-tube" experiment to determine whether some 100 pieces of equipment for use in constructing permanent army and navy bases in the far north would be hauled overland or shipped by water to Alaska ports. The decision will be made after seeing how both men and equipment stood up under the grueling drive.

The foundation of Sutter's Mill, where gold was discovered in 1848, has been unearthed for study by University of California archaeologists.

Georgia Labor Told To 'Ignore' 2 Laws

ATLANTA.—AFL members were advised here by State Representative Cicero Kendrick, an AFL man himself, to ignore the two anti-labor bills passed by the Georgia legislature.

Herman Talmadge, who was helped into Georgia's gubernatorial seat by Kendrick's vote, is expected to doublecross the AFL by signing the legislation which outlaws the closed shop and checkoff and restricts the right to mass picketing.

"We have two governors in this state and one of them is not obeying the legislature," Kendrick reminded delegates to a meeting of the Atlanta Federation of Trades. "And if the governors of Georgia do not obey the legislature, I certainly am not going to advise anyone to obey it.

"I hope labor will not yield to a law which takes away its fundamental rights," he said, adding his belief that the bills were unconstitutional and were proposed only to put unions out of business before the courts could rule on their legality.

Maybe the Weed Can Help Balance the Budget

WASHINGTON.—Smoking too much?

Uncle Sam's bureau of internal revenue doesn't think so, because in 1946 it collected a cool $1,218,000,000 in excise taxes on the filthy weed, and the manufacturers passed it right on to you and the millionaires at the same amount per smoke.

Cigarette taxes took in $1,125,000,000 of the total, with smaller sums collected on cigars, chewing and pipe tobacco and snuff. That amounts to about a buck a week for an average-to-heavy smoker. Had enough?

LIVING COSTS, JOBLESS, INCREASE AID PAY

WASHINGTON.—The three state-federal public assistance programs under the Social Security Act—aid to dependent children, old age assistance and aid to the blind—increased payments 17.6% in 1946 over 1945 from factors arising out of the end of wartime employment and the rising cost of living.

LEWIS' JOURNAL SAYS TIME PAST FOR 'HALF WAY UNITY' OF LABOR

WASHINGTON. — The United Mine Workers Journal, official organ of the UMW (AFL), said editorially March 1 that: "The time is long since past for half-way measures when it comes to labor unity. Either we shall have genuine organic unity of all branches of labor or we shall have no unity. And the way to unite is to unite!"

The editorial said prospects for unity are not very bright although "the recent AFL executive council proposal went as far as it could go," and blamed the CIO for assuming an attitude that "offers little ground for optimism."

"Instead of accepting the AFL's seriously-meant suggestion for a meeting to accomplish organic unity, the CIO wants a talkfest on labor legislative issues. Labor is already united in opposition to all forms of repressive legislation and it is difficult to understand how it could make its position any more clear by a joint conference to restate it," the editorial continued.

Pointing to the unity of labor's adversaries in the legislative field the edtiorial declared this "makes it imperative that labor marshal its maximum strength to protect itself. It can best do this if united within one federation competent to speak for all. So long as there is division, politicians will continue to try to play off one against the other to the detriment of both.

"Whoever sabotages labor unity now is guilty of a great disservice to the best interests of the nation's workers and must be eventually held accountable to them. Regardless of all personal equations and past events the times call for real unity."

Chickens Surviving Postwar Ax

WASHINGTON. — Want a job with security? Look for a position as an army colonel.

The War Department said recently that from June 1945 to June 1947 the number of enlisted men will have dropped from eight million to about one million, but that chicken colonels will only drop from 10,000 to 6,000. That means a ratio of one colonel to every 165 men, when the wartime ratio was one colonel to every 755 men.

A MILLION HOUSES IN 1947, SAYS FLEMING, BUT AT STIFF PRICES

WASHINGTON.—Federal Works Administrator Philip B. Fleming who doubles as chief of the Office of Temporary Controls had some sad news for the nation's house-hunting veterans lately, even though he tried to sugarcoat the pill.

Speaking before a women's group at the Hotel Statler, Fleming said the U. S. should be able to build a million houses in 1947. "It has been estimated," he said, "that at least a million houses a year for 20 years should be built to replace the obsolete and unfit and take care of a growing population if our people are to be housed in reasonable decency and comfort."

How many of the 1947 houses will be within financial reach of war veterans either to purchase or to rent remains problematical, he added. "Building costs are high and home ownership is likely to remain an unattainable luxury for most of the veterans."

MONTANA LEGISLATURE HACKS PRO-LABOR BILLS

HELENA, Mont.—Hewing to the line laid down by the copper trust whips, Montana's Republican-controlled legislature happily hacked apart two measures to aid labor, originally requested by Governor Sam C. Ford.

The two bills would have hiked workmen's compensation benefits $5 a week and cut down the waiting time before disabled workers received their first payments.

MACHINISTS BACK FUND TO FIGHT ANTI-LABOR

ALBANY, N. Y.—The 5th semi-annual conference of the New York State Council of Machinists (unaffiliated) here indorsed its international's $2 million organizing campaign as "our answer to the present attack against labor."

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JOURNAL OF COMMERCE PRESS

YES SIR, ACTION!

"Labor Takes Action!" was the heading of the editorial in this spot in our last issue. The action then referred to was described as "a solidarity session such as the employers by their aggressions are making a persistent and effective type of labor action in the East Bay area."

Well, this week the action is still more hard, large, and solid. The Building Trades Council is notifying the Retail Merchants' Association, which likes to boast that "we stick together, act together, and think together," that it's up to them now to stick together on stoppage of their $3,500,000 repair, alteration, and building program.

Building Trades Council workers are going to take the RMA members at their word. United the RMA members stand for union-busting. United the Building Trades Council stand for union-building.

And East Bay organized labor stands unitedly behind the Building Trades Council not only for union-building but for community-building, which can only be achieved when unionism, economic democracy, is accepted as part of community life.

OPENSHOPITIS

Fentress Hill, executive of one of the eight redwood sawmill companies in Northern California making a last ditch fight for the open shop, told a Senate committee in Washington the other day:

"I am convinced that if some labor legislation is not passed forthwith there will be riots and bloodshed approaching civil war in this country. The Congress must meet this issue head on."

But even the hard head of Congress, butted against the stone wall of established democracy in industry, which is what labor unionism is, can't make this country over the way Mr. Hill wants it done.

The big Hammond Lumber Company recently signed up with the AFL striking union in the redwood region on a union shop basis. Mr. Hill should consider this fact, relax a bit, read history, and learn to consider the labor movement an integral part, not a fantastic disease, of the American way of life.

ENCOURAGING!

Sunday, March 9, there was an encouraging Associated Press story from New York. And it's getting so we ought to go out of our way to comment on it when an encouraging needle does show up in the haystack of gloom.

For on that date the National Broadcasting Company was reported as announcing that it had received "the first uncensored broadcast ever made from the Soviet Union."

Censorship had been removed in carrying out Mr. Molotov's promise about the free handling of news of the Moscow Conference.

Throughout all history, nations have learned things from one another. Let's be brave enough to hope that the process has not ended, and that despite all the tension and mistrust the American Union and the Soviet Union are now engaged in mutual education.

UNITED EMPLOYERS

United Employers Inc. announces that its recently added public relations service "will be directed to aiding individual employers and the group to a better understanding of their individual and group responsibility to other employers, the mass of employes in the area and to the general public."

In other words, to encourage employers to stick together against the unions and telling the public that this is a noble policy.

Well, that's fair enough in this catch-as-catch can game of modern life. But unions should take note. The employers are right, attention has to be paid to public relations by any group today. When public relations are poor they're like any other poor relations—they'll eat you out of house and home.

THE LILIENTHAL AGONY

Some of the Senate Republicans seem to have done their worst to make Senator McKellar, reactionary Southern Democrat, in effect the national chairman of the GOP.

McKellar, when the question of whether Lilienthal should be confirmed as chairman of the Atomic Authority came up, jumped into the mud with both feet and with that remarkable brain of his, and shouted back to his Republican colleagues:

"Come on in, boys, the mud is fine!"

Thereupon one after another of the "people's mandate" party plunged right in, and did all they could to make the world wonder what sort of role America is going to play in world affairs.

The redoubtable Mr. Taft, proprietor of Ohio, a presidential family tradition, and of all members of his own party who can be bluffed, attached himself firmly to McKellar's coat tails, showing to the utmost his sterling qualities as a "leader."

The principal beneficiaries of this marvelous exhibition put on by the McKellar Republicans were the Communists.

For if there's one thing the Communists love, it's to have fantastic charges of Communism filed against all and sundry. Then the Communists can say: "See, anyone who brings up the subject is just an anti-labor red-baiter."

It is absolutely necessary to charge persons with Communism at times. But such charges should be rifles, not shotguns. They should be aimed smack at the birds, not fired off at random so that they kill the hunters rather than the game.

PROMISES AND PRICES

Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, chairman of President Truman's council of economic advisors, says that there have been many expressions of willingness from business men to follow the lead of Henry Ford in cutting prices.

But, adds the eminent economist gently but firmly:

"There has been little done in terms of concrete action."

It must be said for many of the business leaders that they've been so busy organizing against labor unions and doing all they can to cut down consumers' purchasing power that they really haven't had time to attend to this little matter of dropping prices.

FRIEND AND FOE
IN RADIO AND PRESS

Elmer Davis on the 8:15 p.m. spot on KGO is doing a grave, sensible, sometimes deeply moving job of interpreting world events.

One thing about Elmer—he has a good honest hog-calling voice, none of that golden bell stuff one gets so sick of on the radio.

There's no fluff or guff in his stuff. He thinks the problems America faces in the world today are very serious, and he knows that no sensible man can claim to know all the answers. So he feels his way along simply and earnestly—a good American citizen trying to think his way through for the good of America and the world.

The other night in discussing the problem we face in Greece if Britain really admits she's too weak to pretend to be an empire any more was especially good.

Davis spoke gravely of "such extensive and incalculable commitments as may be necessary if we decide on this course," that is, the course of really trying to do something about Greece. But he didn't blink the possibility that we may have to "decide on this course," and that if we do, we'd better not be too little and too late.

★ ★ ★

New Republic: "What was it the voters put the GOP in power to do? After four months of control in Congress, Republicans were racking their memories . . . 'Harmony' had been billed as the feature attraction of the coming GOP show. But long faces and short tempers were now more prominent on the majority side. Senator George Aiken (R., Vt.) chose to air the party quarrel in public. While his colleagues squirmed on their bottoms, Aiken shouted rebukes: 'The people gave this Congress no mandate to cut the taxes of those best able to pay . . . no mandate to set the railroads and other business controlled by the great financial interests above the provisions of the anti-trust laws.' The Republicans, said Aiken, were taking their cue 'from a little group of blind, ruthless selfish men whose influence is far out of proportion to their numbers.' Senator Taft sat frozen-faced, contemplating his shoelaces."

★ ★ ★

Pacific Rural Press: "Just to let you know how you average out, California farmers are paying farm workers $14 more per month than they did last year. The wage averages for the state are: $155 per month with board, and $189 per month without board. Or on a daily basis, $7 with board, and $8.30 without. The national wage average is $96.80 which compares with the California average of $166."

The Pacific Rural Press, hardy perennial apologist for the Associated Farmers, knows perfectly well that most California farm workers get no such wages, since they are not "hired men" employed by the month or even by the day, but are unhappy wanderers paid wretchedly low piece rates, and kicked about by the Associated Farmers and county "peace officers" in cahoots with them.

★ ★ ★

Fresno Labor Citizen, editorial by Hap Haggard: "In worrying about proposed labor laws, never forget that the smart congressmen are aware something politically dangerous is afoot. I think they'll remember there are more working men than industrialists, then worry about votes first and campaign expenses later."

That's getting right down not only to grassroots, but to grass seed and fertilizer!

★ ★ ★

Oakland Tribune quotes, in an editorial, advice given by the Friends of Democracy, Inc., on "How to Spot Communists." One supposed indication that a man is a Communist there listed is if you find him "claiming that labor has privileges but no responsibilities in dealing with management."

That looks very much like a sample of the Commies' own "amalgam" method, that is, the amalgamation of a joker with a lot of unquestionable truths. For when Stalin orders the brethren to collaborate with management, they'll talk about nothing BUT responsibilities of unions to management. Remember when Russia was invaded, and they began arguing that the unions ought to give that last shirt to the bosses?

★ ★ ★

Factory Management and Maintenance, one of the McGraw-Hill publications, announces that it's made a study of all proposals to limit labor union activity by law, and considers the following ten goals the most important: 1. To make labor unions responsible for living up to contracts; 2. To obligate unions, as well as management, to bargain; 3. To improve methods of settling disputes so that workers will stay on the job during negotiation; 4. To protect the individual rights of employes against the closed shop and other coercive devices or actions on the part of unions; 5. To prevent the abuses of mass picketing; 6. To regulate the collection and administration of funds by unions; 7. To clarify the status of foremen and supervisors; 8. To afford protection against strikes that imperil the public welfare; 9. To eliminate losses arising from sympathetic strikes, secondary boycotts, and jurisdictional disputes.

There's nothing like a clear summary of what the other fellow's thinking to make one set to work figuring out the answers. And those ten points boil down much that's been flung at unions lately. Might pay to clip out that list and think out your reactions to each point.

Consumers' Prices Fall, But Not Very Far Nor Very Hard

WASHINGTON.—The consumers price index issued monthly by the Labor Department's bureau of labor statistics shows a mid-December to mid-January drop of one-tenth of 1%, but look out—there's a catch to it.

Issued February 27, the latest index is headlined: "January Consumers Prices Decline 0.1% after 10-Months Continuous Advance." At first glance it looks pretty good, giving the impression that our profit-inspired inflation has been checked and better times for the consumer are almost here.

A second look at the index, however, shows the following interesting facts:

1. Among the six items making up the index, four showed an increase during the month, namely clothing, fuel, house furnishings and miscellaneous expenses. Rent, the fifth item, was not surveyed.

2. Food was the only item that dropped, but the 1.1% decline here was confined to three out of its eight subdivisions. Prices rose on cereals and bakery products, meat, fruit and vegetables, beverages and sugar.

3. The three foods which dropped in price, lowering the food index enough to offset by a whisker the steady price rises in all other items in the consumer index were—dairy products, eggs, and fats and oils.

With the exception of these three items, then, consumer prices continued their steady climb upward.

The overall price index furnished by BLS, with all its imperfections, stood January 15 some 55.3% above the August, 1939 figure, just before the war in Europe started. It rose 17.9% in the past year.

DROP INJUNCTION SUIT AGAINST PHILLY TEAMSTERS

PHILADELPHIA. — Counsel for wholesale produce dealers withdrew an injunction action against Local 929, International Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL), after court developments indicated the employers would lose their case.

The union, which has also been under fire before the House Labor Committee in Washington, greeted the withdrawal as a triumph for its side. The injunction suit, brought by 257 jobbers, would have restrained the union from "coercing" 200 clerks employed by the dealers into joining the local.

Care in Selecting Arbitrators Urged

SAN FRANCISCO. — With the abolition of the National Wage Stabilization Board by the President's Executive Order 9809 of December 12, 1946, parties to collective bargaining agreements which have designated the Wage Stabilization Board or its Regional Boards to name arbitrators in cases of dispute, are now faced with the problem of revising that portion of the collective bargaining agreement. It is true that the President's Executive Order transfers the functions of the Wage Stabilization Board to the Secretary of Labor, but there is considerable doubt whether this provision empowers the Secretary of Labor to assume the duties imposed upon the National Wage Stabilization Board by collective bargaining agreements, unless the agreement clearly designates the board or its "successor agency."

Unions must look to other impartial sources for recommendations in the choice of arbitrators. The American Arbitration Association and other self-appointed arbitration organizations have proferred their services in this matter, but the Federation urges all of its affiliates to be very wary of this offer and to exercise great care both in making provisions for choosing arbitrators and in actually making a choice of arbitrators.

Radio Artists Win Wage Boosts From Networks

NEW YORK.—Wage increases of 20% to 30% were included in a contract signed recently between the American Federation of Radio Artists (AFL) and the four national radio networks.

The contract, which is retroactive to November 1st and will run through October 31, 1948, affects 20,000 employes of the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System, the American Broadcasting Company and the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Signing of the pact came after four months of negotiations during which a nationwide radio strike was threatened. Most controversial point in the dispute was a union demand for a clause banning network programs from any station declared "unfair" by AFRA. This was settled by a provision in the contract calling for a joint labor-management committee "to consider all matters of difference between the industry and the union" and make recommendations for peaceful settlement.

Potters Oppose Tariff Cut

WASHINGTON. — President James M. Duffy of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters (AFL) has joined the U. S. Potters Association in opposing lowering of import tariffs on tableware.

Although pressure now is for lowered tariffs for Great Britain and Czechoslovakia, the American industry predicted that peace with Japan will bring a "flood of Japanese dishes that will displace both the American and European product."

Silent Contempt

By JOHN J. SWATTEM

Of course I can't, for fear they'll jail me,
Say anything about Supreme
Court and Lewis—so, words fail me—
But listen to my silence scream!

HIGH COURT UPHOLDS NLRB IN AFL CASE AGAINST DRESS FIRM

WASHINGTON.—In its hour of trial and hardship, the NLRB found some solace in an opinion of the U. S. Supreme Court March 3 upholding the board's decision in the 9-year old case between the Donnelly Garment Co. of Kansas City and the International Ladies Garment Workers (AFL).

Makers or the nationally advertised "Nelly Don" dresses, the firm first became embroiled with the union in 1934, and the conflict reached the NLRB in 1938—and a cease and desist order was issued against the company with a finding of unfair labor practices.

When the firm refused to obey, the NLRB went into the Circuit Court of Appeals for enforcement in 1941 but the court remanded the case to the board on claims that the testimony of 1,200 members of a company union had been barred by the trial examiner.

At the rehearing the board heard 11 of the 1,200 and conceded the others would make similar testimony against the ILGWU.

In 1943 the new NLRB decision was handed down, finding the Donnelly Garment Co. guilty of unfair labor practices and in 1945 the Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the NLRB order was invalid because its 1941 instruction to the NLRB was not fully carried out.

Justice Felix Frankfurter delivered the unanimous verdict of the supreme court upholding the NLRB but avoiding a study of the record consisting of 13 volumes in 5,000 pages. Instead, the high court held that the Circuit Court of Appeals must make final disposition of the case.

SOUTHERN TEAMSTERS WIN $10.50 PAY HIKE

ATLANTA.—Wage increases averaging $10.50 a week were won for some 20,000 truck line workers in over-the-road agreements reached by southeast and southwestern freight operators and the Southern Conference of Teamsters (AFL).

The newly signed pacts call for an hourly wage rate of $1.10, an increase ranging from 10% to 15%. The mileage rate, the truck drivers' major source of income, was increased a half cent a mile, which is approximately $10.50 more weekly for the average driver.

Praising the agreements, Dexter L. Lewis of the Southern Conference of Teamsters pointed out that they had established a record in harmonious relations with the employers. Not a single hour had been lost because of strikes in the last five years, he said.

Metal Lathers End Walkout in 7-Hour Day Dispute

NEW YORK.—A 2-day walkout by 800 AFL metal lathers ended recently with the establishment of machinery to settle the lathers' protests against lengthening their work day to eight hours.

Main issue in the dispute, which threatened to halt all building construction in the New York area, was the opposition of Local 46, International Union of Wood Wire & Metal Lathers, to an amendment to the construction industry master agreement worked out by the New York Building & Construction Trades Council.

The amendment provided for lengthening the work day from seven to eight hours in return for a 40c hourly increase.

U. S. Department of Labor reports show that since October 24, 1938, the first 8 years of enforcement of the Federal Wage and Hour Law resulted in restitution of nearly $100 million in back wages for 2,500,000 workers.

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